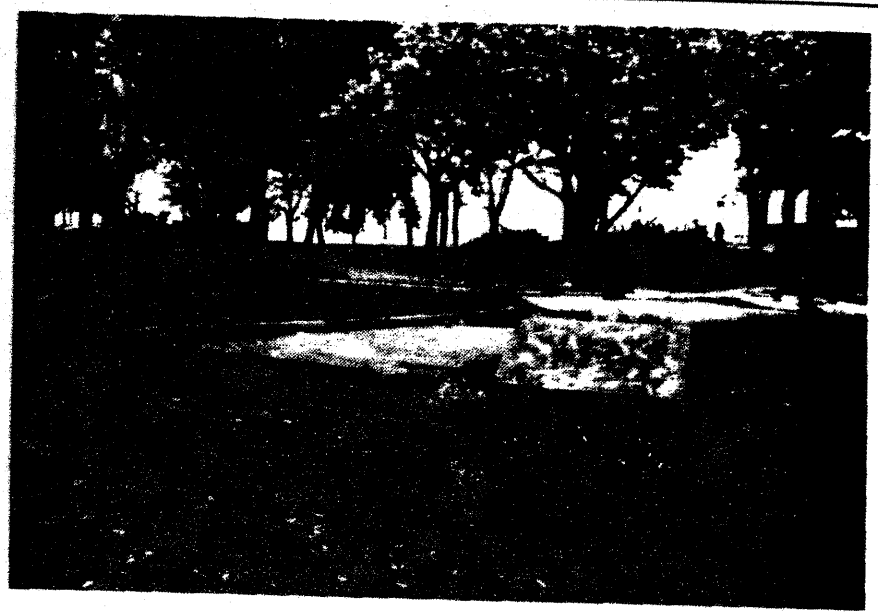
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

OCTOBER 1985 232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

RIVERVIEW PARK RESTORATION



Riverview Park is one of the showplaces of Jersey City Heights. Perched on the Palisades, overlooking Hoboken, its view of New York City is breathtaking. Unfortunately, as of late, its condition has deteriorated. It has become a hangout for young people playing loud music and basketball till all hours of the morning, a receptacle for broken beer bottles and other debris, and a drugstore of sorts.

The cleaning crew from the Department of Public Works is very ineffective in alleviating the sanitation problem, as is the Police Dept. in stopping the drinking, drugs and delinquency in the Park.

The local neighborhood has become dismayed and frustrated in its inability to resolve any of these conditions. The end result is that the people have stopped using the Park for their childrens' and their own recreation and, in effect, have surrendered the area to the problem elements. What the Park needs is the attention and concern of the City officials and a much deserved facelift.

About five years ago, the Neighborhood Improvement Program (N.I.P.) Committee, a voluntary community advisory group, was asked to recommend renovation projects to be funded by the Community Development Block Grant (C.D.B.G.) Program, such as the reshingling of the roof of the Park pavilion, iron railings for the pavilion, repairing walks and the cliff retaining wall. In the spring of 1985, Councilman Tom Hart announced the start of this Riverview Park Restoration Project with additional renovations including the installation of 19 trash bins and 30 "town and country" lamps. (As of this date, no renovations have started in the Park).

Riverview Neighorhood Association and its Park Committee applaud these efforts to bring about the long overdue improvements but disagree with the proposed set of priorities established for this project. RNA's number one priority is cleaning up the Park and therefore, RNA approves of the pavilion repairs and the new trash bins. But, at RNA's April 9, 1985 meeting, two votes concerning the Park were approved by the membership. One vote supported the Park Committee's efforts to delay the installation of the 30 park lamps. RNA feels that if the 30 lamps are installed, they will not conform with the historic restoration planned for the Park. The Committee believes that the illumination from these lamps will obliterate the magnificent panoramic view of New York. The second vote authorized the Committee to organize a community-wide forum to discuss the long range plans and uses for the Park.

On September 18th, the Park Committee met with the N.I.P. to discuss the Park and make specific recommendations approved of by the membership for the allocation of the Park funding. Both groups agreed to cooperate and push for the renovation of the pavilion and the installation of the trash bins. The issue of the park lamps was put on a back burner.

Inquiring further, RNA learned from the C.D.B.G. office and the Division of Architecture that no formal plans for Riverview Park have been submitted for approval.

As we go to print, the Parks Committee is discussing the possibility of working with an independent architect to draw up plans for the Park. They are also seeking the help of other city officials to help the neighborhood in its plight.

Work is also being continued to develop the Riverview Park Forum for the fall of 1985 when the project will be open to the public for discussion.

Chuck Hollowell & Vito Brunetti

Going South

As of September 24, 1985 Ogden Avenue has gone south — traffic-wise, that is. Ogden Avenue was changed from Griffith Street to Cuneo Place to go in a one-way southbound direction. (Ogden from Griffith to Congress Street will continue to be a one-way northbound street.) The change was initiated because of safety problems. Cars were using the street as an alternate route to avoid the traffic lights on Palisade Avenue. Ogden was also becoming a "speedway" with cars racing up to 60 MPH as they reached Riverview Park.

Griffith Street from Palisade Avenue to Ogden is now eastbound. Cuneo Place from Ogden to Palisade is now westbound.

Alternate-side parking, DO NOT ENTER, and ONE WAY signs were put up on Sept. 23rd and 24th.

RNA would like to thank the herculean efforts of Mike Cioffi for coordinating the

(Cont'd on page 2)

RNA T-SHIRT COMPETITION

At our Octotober meeting, RNA members will vote on the design they prefer for the RNA T-shirt. Four designs have been submitted, including the one by Risa Gerber which was shown at the September meeting. When we have selected the winner, we will order the T-shirts. Think about how many you will want and what sizes they should be.

Liz Murray

GOING SOUTH *(Cont'd from page 1)*

project, especially his personal door-to-door petition signing work. Thanks also go to Pat Blake of the Division of Traffic Engineering and Councilman Tom Hart's office for their assistance. It took a little longer than any of us anticipated between approval of the City Council and the Department of Transportation in Trenton – but we finally succeeded in our project.

But before we congratulate ourselves too much – we must now be patient with drivers becoming aware of this new change. There will be confusion with cars driving both ways on our street. Be helpful and tell them the new direction, it will only make the street safer for all of us.

Bob Lewis

CRIME NOTES:

Over the September 2oth weekend, Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street were the victims of a new attack of graffitti vandalism. Homes were spray-painted from the corner of Ogden and Franklin to the middle of Ogden Avenue. One audacious sign had "high-crime city" written on a porch wall. If anyone knows the culprit (the signature is "C.E.") or sees any future graffitti incidents, please call the police immediately. Better still, contact the victim ized neighbor. I'm sure he or she would like to meet this graffitti "artist".

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Randy Sandord

The "Parkview Bar" property, 449 Palisade Ave. at Griffith St. is slated for development into 6 townhouses. The committee met with the developer, John Sacci and his architect George Centeno on Sept. 24th. The consensus was that the concept of the proposed design is acceptable to the committee, but the aesthetics of the facade were not particularly appealing. Architect Centeno will be meeting with Ted Conrad to work on changes in the facade, after which the committee will make it's final decision about supporting the project. More at the October meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

RNA has invited Councilwoman Bernadette O'Reilly-Lando and Council President Glenn Cunningham to speak to our membership at our October 8th meeting. Realising the need to introduce ourselves and open communications with our Council-at-large representatives, we welcome this gathering as a means of acquainting our officials with our neighborhood.

Chester Kaminski, our third Council-at-large representative has confirmed our invitation to speak at our November 12th meeting.

At the request of the RNA membership, the following letter was sent to Mayor Cucci regarding the status of Mountain Road:

Mayor Anthony Cucci
City Hall
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, N.J. 08302

Mayor Cucci,

Riverview Neighborhood Association is a local organization working in the Heights. Our boundaries are Ogden Avenue and Palisade Avenue from Cuneo Place to Bowers St. We have an active membership of approximately 130 people that meet every second Tuesday of the month at the Harbor View Health Care Center.

One of the first issues that the organization debated and took a position on was the closing of Mountain Road (also known as Koven Avenue). The Mountain Road is a cobblestoned street which runs between Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street to Hope St. and Patterson Plank Road in Jersey City Heights. In June, 1984, a regulation was passed and in August, 1984 the road was officially closed temporarily for one year by the Department of Traffic Engineering.

The closing was initiated by Councilman Thomas Hart because of a list of serious problems, such as crime, vehicle and pedestrian safety, garbage dumping and illegal chop-shop operations that disrupted the neighborhood.

The newly formed RNA organized a two-part forum on February 12th and March 12th, 1985 to discuss the issue of the road closing. Officials from the Police, Fire, Traffic Engineering and Public Works Departments, Councilman Hart's office and local residents participated in this debate. The neighborhood was divided between closing and reopening the road.

On March 12th, a vote was taken by the organization, with the results of 21 to 18 in favor of reopening the road. The main argument in support of reopening the road was to correct the problems of crime, safety, and sanitation – not to sacrifice the road because of them. A memo from Director Patrick Nelan of Traffic Engineering concludes that the road could be reopened within certain conditions: those being that the road be made one-way with a reduced speed limit.

Our organization has patiently waited for the expiration of the one year closing. At our September 10, 1985 meeting, our members were concerned that the road was not being reopened. They demanded that the RNA contact the City to find out what was delaying the reopening of Mountain Road. At that meeting, a vote was taken to support the Traffic Engineering recommendation for one-way traffic on Mountain Road and in addition the City should also reopen Holland Street (north of Riverview Park) as a one-way street. Mountain Road could be a one-way street going eastbound into Hoboken and Holland St. could be westbound rising into Jersey City; thereby creating a solution to relieve the traffic flow on both of these streets but still allowing residents the use of these roads.

The RNA would like a prompt reply to the present status of Mountain Road and a realistic date for its reopening. We urgently petition the Mayor's office, the Department of Traffic Engineering, and both Councilmen Brooks and Hart to help us in this request. Hopefully, your response to reopen the road will also include a firm committment that the problems of crime, safety, sanitation and maintenance will be eliminated.

We, as an organization, stand ready to do our share and help in whatever way possible to see that Mountain Road will become a safe and clean thoroughfare in our neighborhood once it has been reopened.

In closing, RNA would like to extend an invitation to the Mayor to come and speak at one of our upcoming meetings. It is within this informal gathering that the Mayor could become acquainted with our neighborhood and also present his position on numerous issues important to us locally and citywide.

Sincerely,

Vito Brunetti
Chairman

SOLO STUDIOS - A real treat . . .

Dean Howell, an artist and sculptor, and Lynda Grose, a fashion designer and art director, opened their gallery/studio to the public on Sunday, September 15th, providing an unusual treat for the residents of Jersey City Heights. There were three different shows going on in the former Burke Funeral Home on Palisade Avenue – Howell's sculpture and drawings, Grose's fashion design and illustration and the incredible renovation job they have done on the former funeral home. It felt as if one were at a top notch avant garde gallery and not at 469 Palisade Avenue. The renovation was done with extremely good taste and artistic sensi-

(Continued on page 3)

A REAL TREAT

(Continued from page 2)

bility and provided a perfect showplace for the artwork of its inhabitants.

It is difficult to describe Howell's sculpture—you have to be there to experience it. Huge heads in fiberglass with careful detail down to the hair and eyelashes reflecting Howell's interpretation of realism plus an emotional aura that rivets the viewer and makes one feel an eerie aliveness. Lifesize nude figures sitting, standing, looking so real from a distance you at first think you see real people, but on approaching them you see a sculpture with the feeling of human presence. The eyes are especially uncanny. Howell calls it Living Realism.

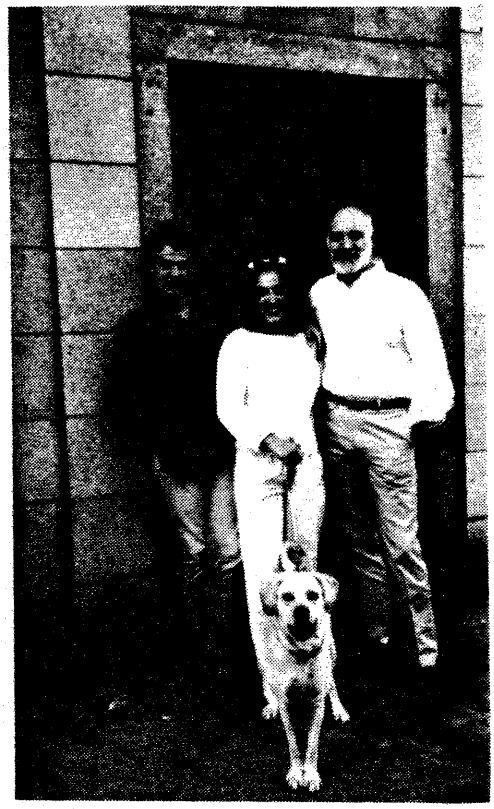
Grose's fashion illustration and design is exceptionally beautiful and chic. Brightly colored swatches of material accompany her illustrations and her own hand made samples are on display. Some of the designs have a futuristic quality to them while others, like the children's clothes, are playful and fancy-free.

The gallery/studio complex, Solo Studios, is a forward moving step for the Heights. It reflects where we're going and how the Heights is changing.

Throughout the day, a continuous slide show of the building's renovation featuring "before and after" shots, flashes on the wall. A show in itself! Our congratulations to Lynda and Dean.

Viewings by appointment.

—Edith Springer



IN FRONT OF SOLO GALLERIES: (From left to right): William Hart, Edith Springer, Sculptor Dean Howell and Jed.

ANOTHER TREAT

CHEESE CAKE
—Carin Lewis

3 eggs (well beaten)
2 8 oz. cream cheese
1 cup sugar
3 cups sour cream
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon lemon extract
Pinch salt

GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST:
1¾ cup Graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup fine chopped nuts
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup butter or margarine

Press Graham crumbs on bottom and 2½" on sides of 9" spring form pan.

Combine eggs, cream cheese, sugar, salt and both extracts. Beat until smooth. Blend in sour cream. Pour into Graham crust. Bake at 375o for 35 mm.** Cool-chill well 4 to 5 hrs. Filling will be soft.

** Do not bake more than 35 min.!!!

Note: The Community Awareness Committee has tasted this cheese cake and highly recommends it . . .

HARBOR VIEW HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Friday, October 25th, from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M., RNA will have a Halloween Theme Party for the residents of the Harbor View Health Care Center. Organized by Karen Funk, the party will be our way of thanking Harbor View for its continued hospitality in allowing us to hold our monthly meetings in its solarium.

Karen Funk contacted School No. 8 to organize a program with the children to entertain the Harbor View residents.

Volunteers to serve food and help get the party going are: Karen Funk, Marie Tuzzo, Madge Sweeny, Carin Lewis and Theresa Graul. Volunteers are still needed for this and also to prepare or obtain food, both dietetic (sugar and salt free) and regular. So far, Claudia Slovinski has offered to bake a dietetic cake. Interested people should contact Community Awareness c/o Edith Springer (798-0493) or see Karen Funk at the October meeting.

Dee Ipsaro

HELP US GET FINANCIAL AID — FROM GAINES

We have a wonderful opportunity to raise more money for our projects . . . but we need your help. The GAINES dog food people will pay us cash when we send them the starred (★) price areas from their packages. So, clip those starred panels before you throw away your Gaines bags or boxes. When you've collected a handful, mail or bring them to us:

ASSOCIATED HUMANE SOCIETIES
124 Evergreen Avenue
Newark, N.J. 07114

Marie Tuzzo

PETS CORNER

"JED BRUNETTI, AFTER HIS RECENT SURGERY"

THE LEISURE PAGE

HALLOWEEN

Witches and banshees scream in the night
Black cats and ghosts give a terrible fright
Goblins and Gremlins cause a great scare
Lighted pumpkins are seen everywhere.

Devils are dancing around and around
Unfrightened children can hardly be found
Yet, inspite of the bedlam when all is done
Halloween Trick or Treating really is fun.

—Maria Tuzzo

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, AT 7 P.M. AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER. DON'T MISS OUR COUNCIL MEMBER SPEAKERS, THE DETAILS ON THE TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY, THE T-SHIRT CONTEST . . .

RNA BUS TRIP REVED-UP AND WAITING

By: Marie Tuzzo

On **SUNDAY OCT. 20th**, at **8:30 SHARP**, a red and tan bus will **DEPART** from in front of **THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER**, destination **ATLANTIC CITY**. You can be part of this Social gathering of neighbors, by calling Mike Cioffi (792-4595) or Maria Tuzzo (659-2245). For the minimal fee of $11.00, you will be transported to **RESORT INTL**; you will receive **$10.00** in quarters; a **$2.50 FOOD ALLOWANCE** and a **$5.00 DEFFERED VOUCHER.** There are a few seats still available. Treat yourself to a fun day and join us on this adventurous outing.

Community Awareness Committee Members

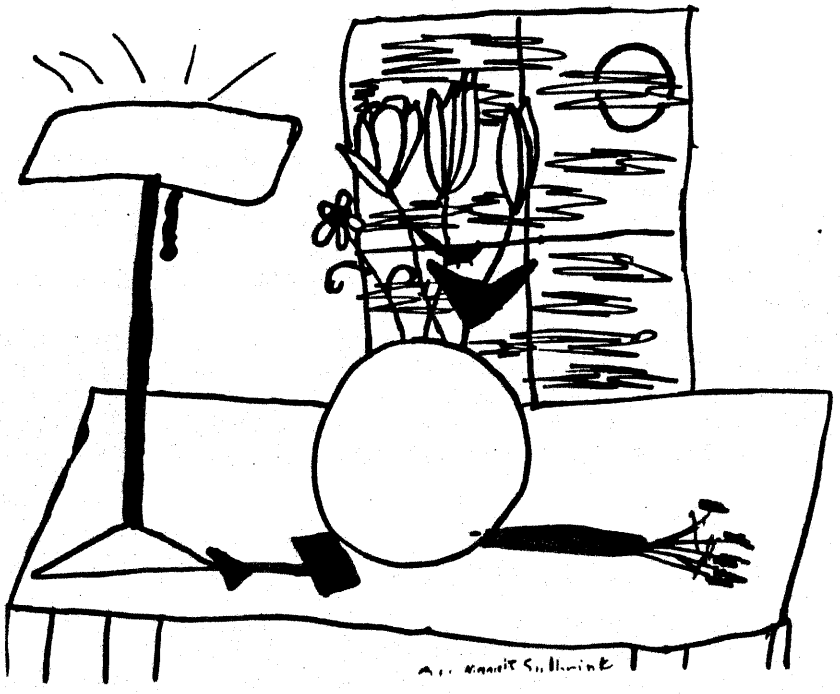
Risa Gerber
Marie "Dee" Ipsaro
Carin Lewis
Liz Murray
Edith Springer
Raquel Sweeny

SPECIAL THANKS TO KATHY BRENNAN

BLOCK WATCH CORNER

Illustration by Risa Gerber, member of the Community Awareness Committee

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Drawing by Maggie Sudbrink - 9 years old